surveys and reimbursing certain WTO admissible costs on account of marketing and transport.

Mini-Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo

498. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that WTO is expected to discuss market access in agriculture and services, anti-dumping, Singapore issues etc. in the forthcoming Mini-Ministerial meeting in Tokyo;

(b) if so, the stand taken by Government on these issues; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to protect that interest of Country on these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) An informal meeting of about 20 Trade Ministers of Member States of WTO was held in Tokyo at the invitation of Japanese Government from 14-16 February 2003. The Indian delegation was jointly led by Minister of Commerce & Industry and Law & Justice and Minister of Agiculture. The Director General of WTO also attended the informal mini-Ministerial meeting.

This meeting reviewed all major WTO issues under negotiations in the on-going Doha Work Programme, including market access for agricultural and non-agricultural products and services; TRIPS and Public Health; Special and Differential Treatment; Implementation-related issues and concerns; Rules; and the Singapore issues of Trade and Investment. Trade and Competition Policy, Transparency in Government Procurement and Trade Facilitation.

At this meeting, India forcefully articulated the need to restore the development agenda as the central focus of WTO negotiations, as mandated in the Doha Ministerial Declaration. India strongly expressed its concern over the slow progress in the area of development-related issues such as TRIPS and Public Health; implementation issues and special and differential treatment issues and stated that the success or otherwise of the forthcoming Cancum Ministerial Conference of the WTO

in September this year would greatly depend on the resolution of these issues. Participants from many other developing countries such as Barazil, Kenya, Costa Rica, Nigeria, Lesotho and Senegal strongly supported India's statement.

Since agriculture was a priority sector for all countries, India pointed out that satisfactory resolution with respect to distortions in global agricultural trade can take place only if both domestic support and export subsidies were substantially reduced or eliminiated in the developed countries. India strongly emphasized the highest priority that it would give to the protection of its farmers and their well being. India also stressed the need for sufficient special and differential treatment provisions for developing countries, such as the use of special safeguard measures to prevent surge in imports. It pointed out the lack of flexibility it had on market access in agriculture.

In respect of non-agricultural products, India strongly advocated increased market access for products of export interest to India such as textiles, leather goods. Expressing strong interest in the services' negotiations, India asked for greater liberalization in the movement of natural persons.

On singapore issues, India reiterated its stand that these issues did not fall within the purview of WTO which should focus on trade related issues only. In the area of Rules, India called for stronger disciplines in anti-dumping and anti-subsidy so as to ensure that the market access achieved through reduction in tariffs and elimination of non-tariff barriers is not negated through trade defence measures.

Since this was an informal meeting, discussions were in the form of exchange of views of participating countries with no declared outcome. The object was to see how further progress can be made in taking forward the Doha Work Programme by the time of the Fifth Ministerial Conference to be held in Cancum, Mexico this year. The Ministers in this meeting resolved to make a fresh effort to achieve progress in areas, which are of vital interest to the developing countries.

(c) Continuous dialogues with stake holders have been held to finalise India's position on various WTO issues. Based on these inputs, India seeks to protect its national interests by actively participating in the

negotiations and articulating its position effectively. Further, it is also making bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral efforts, both with developed and developing country members, so as to ensure that interests of developing countries, including India are fully protected. India would make utmost efforts to ensure a balanced outcome at the end of the negotiations that would try to protect the interests of all WTO Members and also to ensure that the development-oriented focus of the Doha mandate is fully preserved in the final results of the negotiations.

Incentives to cement factories to be set up in Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal

499. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that offering incentives like excise exemptions etc. to cement factories to be set up in Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal will be an environmental hazard in these areas assit involves extensive transportation by road from the lime deposits to the factories and from the manufacturing sites to marketing places in North India due to paucity of additional demands of cement in Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal; and

(b) if so, whether the Environmental angle has been cleared from the respective agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Cement being a mineral based industry, it is considered advantageous to set up the Cement Plants around the lime stones deposit areas and the cement produced is transported to various consumption centres. Details of State wise production and consumption of cement are annexed as statement (*see* below). In the State of Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal, lime stone reserves to the extent of 3976.45 million tonnes and 1259.95 million tonnes respectively are available (proved equivalent). Based on these reserves, 4.5 million tonnes cement production capacity has already been created in the State of Himachal Pradesh, prior to the notification of fiscal incentives. Against the above installed capacity, the actual